

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2021-248-C - ORDER NO. 2021-681
OCTOBER 12, 2021

IN RE: Petition of AT&T South Carolina for Order)	ORDER CONFIRMING
Confirming Relinquishment of Eligible)	RELINQUISHMENT OF
Telecommunications Carrier Designation)	ETC DESIGNATION
Throughout the State)	

I. INTRODUCTION

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the Petition of BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T South Carolina (“AT&T”) for an order granting the request of AT&T to relinquish its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) designation throughout South Carolina pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.205.

II. FACTS AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

In its Petition, AT&T states that only 91 AT&T South Carolina customers receive Lifeline discounts from AT&T South Carolina, and that each of these 91 customers can elect either to continue receiving services from AT&T South Carolina without any Lifeline discount, or in the alternative, to receive services from other Commission designated ETCs offering Lifeline discounts that are available under federal or state law. AT&T asserts that each affected Lifeline customer is able to receive service from “at least 4 (and up to 15) other Commission-designated ETCs.”¹

¹ AT&T Petition filed August 4, 2021, p. 2.

III. APPLICABLE LAW

47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4)

A State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. An eligible telecommunications carrier that seeks to relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier designation for an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier shall give advance notice to the State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) of such relinquishment. Prior to permitting a telecommunications carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service in an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier, the State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) shall require the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier or carriers to ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served, and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier. The State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) shall establish a time, not to exceed one year after the State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) approves such relinquishment under this paragraph, within which such purchase or construction shall be completed.

47 C.F.R. § 54.205 - Relinquishment of universal service.

(a) A state commission shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. An eligible telecommunications carrier that seeks to relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier designation for an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier shall give

advance notice to the state commission of such relinquishment.

(b) Prior to permitting a telecommunications carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service in an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier, the state commission shall require the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier or carriers to ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served, and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier. The state commission shall establish a time, not to exceed one year after the state commission approves such relinquishment under this section, within which such purchase or construction shall be completed.

IV. DISCUSSION

AT&T has asserted that all affected Lifeline customers reside in areas in which multiple ETCs are present and offering service. All lifeline customers will be able to receive service from another ETC serving the area, subject to any Lifeline discounts that are available under federal or state law.

V. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. AT&T's Petition to relinquish its ETC designation has been filed pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.205.
2. AT&T has 91 South Carolina customers that currently receive Lifeline discounts that will be affected by the relinquishment of AT&T's ETC designation.
3. All 91 affected Lifeline customers will be able to receive service from alternative ETCs operating in their respective areas.

4. AT&T's relinquishment of its ETC designation will not deprive its existing Lifeline customers of access to Lifeline discount service.

VI. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. AT&T's Petition to relinquish its ETC designation has been filed pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.205, provided that ample notice to the 91 affected Lifeline customers is effectuated.

VII. ORDERING PROVISIONS

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The Petition of AT&T for relinquishment of its ETC designation in South Carolina is approved.
2. AT&T shall provide ample notice to these 91 affected customers prior to the relinquishment effective date of February 15, 2022.
3. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:




Justin T. Williams, Chairman
Public Service Commission of
South Carolina